

REVEREND THOMAS A. KUHN

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my privilege to welcome Father Thomas Kuhn as our guest chaplain. Father Tom is currently pastor of the Church of the Incarnation in Centerville, Ohio, one of the largest Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Father Kuhn has been pastor at Incarnation since 1989. He is leading a delegation of some 75 8th graders from Incarnation School, which has won the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School award for excellence several times, most recently in 1999.

A number of his students from Incarnation are with us this afternoon watching these proceedings from the Gallery. We want to welcome you. I am sure the gentleman from Dayton, Ohio (Mr. HALL) will join me in welcoming Father Kuhn and all of you to the Capitol today.

Father Tom is the former principal of Cincinnati's Elder High School and the former assistant pastor of St. John's Church in West Chester, Ohio, and it was during that time that I came to know him, and he remains a great friend today.

Please join me in welcoming Father Kuhn as our guest chaplain and the students of Incarnation School as they explore our Nation's Capitol.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that they are not to address or refer to the guests in the Gallery.

#### HIGH GAS PRICES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, government investigators said, and I quote, there is no conspiracy by petroleum companies to raise gas prices in America. Unbelievable.

Who is kidding whom here? Gas prices are over \$2 a gallon, and, in addition, it just seems every weekend they just raise them 25 cents a gallon just for the sake of it.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not enough to flatulate your rectangle, the oil companies announced that gas prices will hit \$3 a gallon this summer.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker; those so-called government investigators are either on the payroll of those oil companies or they are smoking dope.

I yield back the biggest rip-off in the history of the United States of America.

#### URGING SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT FOR NEXT 75 YEARS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, through you to the President's Commission on Social Security, I would suggest many of us are very concerned that we are going to review a proposal that might not keep Social Security solvent for the next 75 to 100 years.

I think it is important that we urge the President, that we urge this Commission, to come back to this legislative body with a proposal that is going to at least keep Social Security solvent for the next 75 years. Social Security is a pay-as-you-go program.

It is going broke as we experience demographics that represent a decline in the birth rate and an increase in life expectancy. It is a good program for America. It is a serious problem. We need to protect Social Security.

#### INTRODUCTION OF IMPACT AID BILL

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, 21 of my bipartisan colleagues and I introduced my first bill, a measure important for the education of military children. Our bill is called GRADE-A, the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act, and it guarantees that federally-impacted schools receive the dollars they need from the impact aid program.

Mr. Speaker, over 5,000 military personnel qualify for food stamps, and people who wear their country's uniform sometimes fall below the poverty line while their kids go to schools financially teetering on the edge. As we boost military pay and housing, we must also care for military kids.

Mr. Speaker, over 90 percent of the funding for education comes from local funds, from funds such as property taxes. But what happens if that property is owned by the Federal Government and off the tax rolls? Kids report to class with no property tax dollars needed for their school.

GRADE-A guarantees that the Federal Government will step in to ensure that these kids have the resources they need for their education. It ensures that when the military and other children from Federal property report for school that they are welcomed in a good school with sound financial backing. GRADE-A has been endorsed by the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and many school administrators across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we make education our priority, let us remember the children of men and women in uniform.

#### SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES SUPPORTS AMERICA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the United States was built upon and by small family-owned businesses, and America is today known for its unique, entrepreneurial spirit.

Even today, in the era of corporate mergers, small businesses remain the cornerstone, yes, the foundation of our economy.

They employ 53 percent of our work force and account for 99.7 percent of the Nation's employers. Yet burdensome regulations, a complex Tax Code, and an inaccessible health care system have been stifling the ability of small businesses to remain viable and successful.

As a Congress, we need to ensure that the entrepreneurial spirit that built this country does not diminish due to an unfair tax and regulatory system.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support small business owners in their pursuit of the American dream. I yield back all of the unfair taxes and regulations that have served as obstacles for the small businesses which make our Nation great and prosperous.

#### NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2001

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to our country's most vital economic sector, our small businesses.

Each year, for the past 38 years, the President has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. This year, National Small Business Week, which is sponsored by the SBA, is being held right now.

Mr. Speaker, this year's celebration will honor the estimated 25.5 million small businesses in America that employ more than half the country's private work force, create 3 out of every 4 new jobs, and generate a majority of American innovations.

Small Business Week also recognizes small business owners all across America for their personal achievements and contributions to our economy. From this group, in Indiana, the Indiana Small Business Person of the Year is Joseph A. Beckman. He is the owner of Home Lumber and Glenlord Lumber Company. This a retail lumber and land development concern that has